BIMs comments regarding MARA application (MUL260051), submitted by Oriel Windfarm Ltd., to conduct site investigations of the offshore wind farm area and the offshore cable corridor

BIM Comments **28.07.26**

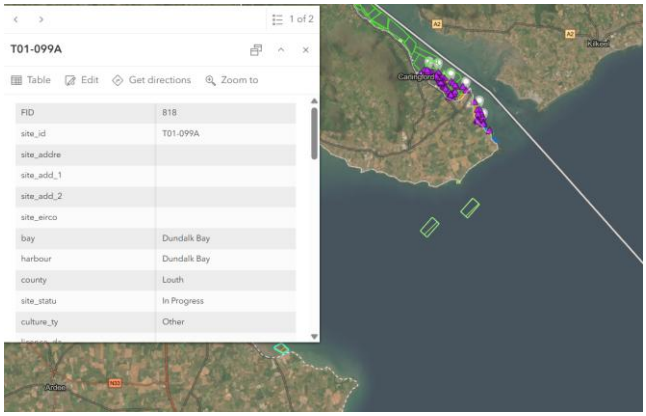
Aquaculture Licence Applications are located close to the Oriel Windfarm area.

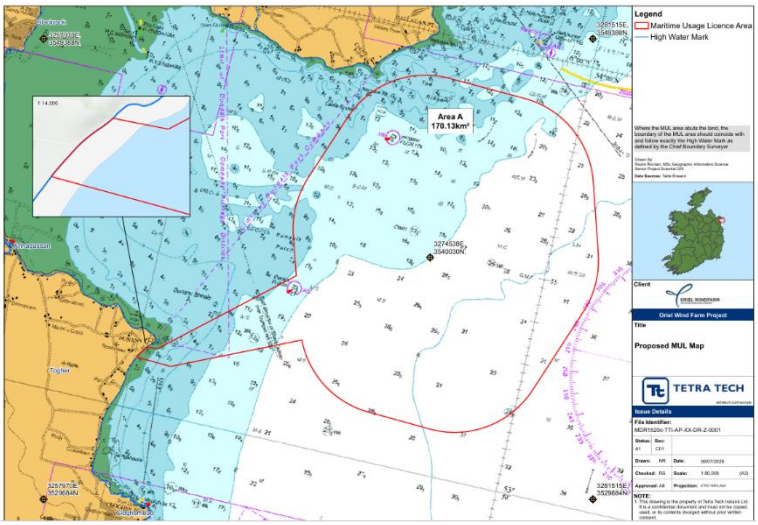
At present (July 2026) four 'new' shellfish aquaculture licence applications (T01-97A, T01-1001, T01-1002 and T01-099A) are in the system and were part of a public consultation in June 2026.



T01-1001 and T01-1002 are mussel seed collection applications and are closest to the Oriel Windfarm site. However, T01-1001 and T01-1002 applications currently under review are potentially within the MARA application (MUL260051) licence area boundary.

Next closest is T01-97A which is an oyster 'winter holding' application.





The oyster farm application T01-99A is furthest away from the Oriel site and is on the southern side of Dundalk Bay.

From an inshore fisheries perspective there is currently substantial fishing effort for lobster, crab and razor clams in the proposed MUL licenced area.

BIM suggest that the applicant engage and keep all fishers, aquaculture establishments, the NE Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum (RIFF) and the Carlingford Lough Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems Group (CLAMS) informed of their activities on an on-going basis.

Conclusion

Mussels and oysters are filter feeders and are sensitive to large influxes of sedimentation when it occurs in the water column. Sedimentation can lead to loss of growth and condition and ultimately increased mortality levels.

Fisheries activities take place currently in Dundalk Bay and that there are potential shellfish aquaculture licensed site nearby to MUL260051 licence area boundary. Specifically, T01-1001 and T01-1002 applications currently under review are potentially within the MARA application (MUL260051) licence area boundary.

These potential aquaculture operations and Inshore fisheries activity should be taken into account in any Risk Assessment considerations for the Oriel wind farm site's and the proposed MUL application licence area activities.